

should do all we can to increase fuel efficiency of our cars and our trucks. But we have to do it in a way that is realistic and that doesn't cost thousands of autoworkers, in places such as Louisville, Bowling Green, and Georgetown, KY, and countless other communities across the country, literally eliminating their work.

Every summer, our good friends on the other side dust off the old class warfare playbook and blame our gas prices on cigar-chomping oil executives. Look, price gouging is wrong. If it is found, it should be punished. But the other side has called countless hearings to try to pin down big oil on price gouging and they haven't come up with the goods yet. It is time to put away the playbook and do something that can help Americans who are suffering every day from high gas prices.

Republicans are eager to move forward on this energy legislation. We are acutely aware of the dangers associated with our dependence on foreign sources of oil. But we can address all of these dangers responsibly, and we should start with the most immediate concern, which is gas prices. Increasing refinery capacity and domestic production should be our goal in this debate. After all, the purpose of an energy bill is to reduce the cost of energy and that is what Republicans intend to do.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. The first half shall be under the control of the majority, of which 20 minutes shall be under the control of Mr. BROWN or his designee and the second half shall be under the control of the Republicans.

The Senator from Ohio is recognized under the order.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the 20 minutes time be divided among myself, Senator STABENOW, and Senator DORGAN and that we will, during this 20 minutes, do a colloquy and discussion.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRADE POLICY

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, it is pretty clear, as we survey the landscape around our great country, what has happened to manufacturing jobs and what has happened to our economy. Over and over, in my State of Ohio, I know, and Senator STABENOW's State of Michigan, we have seen huge job losses, especially in manufacturing. In my State, since 2000, Ohio has lost 1,800 manufacturing companies, more than 200,000 jobs with average wages of

\$48,000, according to the Northeast Ohio Campaign for American Manufacturing. We also know that American workers, when it is a level playing field, can outcompete workers, can outcompete small businesses, can outcompete companies all over the world—when there is a level playing field.

Last week, Senator STABENOW and others participated in a manufacturing summit. She brought leaders of small businesses and large manufacturers to the Nation's Capitol with labor leaders and other people who care about manufacturing. We discussed how we remain competitive, how we shape trade policies to help not hurt our small- and medium-sized manufacturers. At that summit, an Ohio businessman named John Colm walked up to me with a stack of fliers. They were auction notices. He had received 47 of them in the last 4 months. These notices were for "going out of business" sales; they were companies selling off assets, in essence cannibalizing their companies, selling their machinery at rock-bottom prices—all that this manufacturing crisis has done to small manufacturers and large manufacturers but especially small companies in our communities.

We also know how U.S. trade policy has failed American business, especially small business, especially small manufacturers. We know the year I first ran for Congress, in 1992, we had a trade deficit in this country of \$38 billion. Today our trade deficit, whether you count services or not, exceeds either \$700 billion or \$800 billion—from \$38 billion to \$700 billion to \$800 billion in a decade and a half. Our trade deficit with China went from low double digits a decade and a half ago to somewhere in the vicinity of \$250 billion today.

President Bush, Sr., the first President Bush, said for every \$1 billion in trade deficit, it costs a country somewhere in the vicinity of 13,000 jobs. You do the math and you figure how many jobs we have lost, in part, because of our trade policy.

The response of the administration is: Let's do more of these trade agreements. We have already had NAFTA, we have already had PNTR with China, we have already had CAFTA and Singapore and Chile and Morocco and Jordan; let's do more, let's do a trade agreement with Panama, let's do one with Peru, let's do one with Colombia, let's do one with South Korea. The fact is, this trade policy is the wrong direction for our country.

In elections last fall, where Senator STABENOW, who has been a leader on trade and manufacturing, was reelected with a huge margin in a State that has been devastated by bad trade policies; in my State, and Senator WEBB's, Senator SANDERS', Senator TESTER's, the Presiding Officer's, and Senator CARDIN's—in all of our States, the voters spoke loudly and clearly that our trade policy has failed our middle class. Our trade policy has failed small business. Our trade policy has failed

our communities. When a company shuts down with 300 workers in Steubenville or Lima or Dayton or Finley—when a company shuts down, it devastates a community. It means schoolteachers are laid off, police and firefighters are laid off. It means people are not as safe in their communities as their economy deteriorates.

I will close and turn the podium over to Senator STABENOW with a brief mention of energy. Senator REID, the majority leader, spoke about energy. He spoke about Democratic accomplishments today and talked about the energy bill coming up. I wish to illustrate, for a moment, how energy policy can matter and make a difference in manufacturing. At Oberlin College, a community not too far from where I live, between Cleveland and Toledo, on the campus of Oberlin College is located the largest building on any college campus in America that is fully powered by solar energy. When speaking to David Orr, the professor who helped raise the money to build this building, he told me the solar panels that power this building at Oberlin College—a whole roof, a large expanse of roof or solar panels—they were bought in Germany and Japan because we don't make enough of them. Go west of there, where the University of Toledo is doing some of the best wind turbine research in the country. Yet we are not building the turbines and the components and the solar panels and solar cells in this country. This Energy bill we will discuss today, this week and next week, coupled with a real manufacturing policy as Senator STABENOW has articulated over the last several years, can mean more good-paying industrial manufacturing jobs in our country, can help to stabilize energy prices, and can make a difference in rebuilding the middle class in Ohio, Michigan, North Dakota—all over this country.

I yield the floor to Senator STABENOW and thank her for her leadership.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, thank you to my colleague from Ohio. It is so wonderful to have this strong voice, a leader in the House of Representatives on trade and manufacturing and all the issues that affect middle-class families and to now have Senator BROWN joining us in the Senate. It is such a benefit for all of us who care deeply about keeping the middle class in this country, about making sure we move forward with a 21st century manufacturing strategy that works for our country in a global economy. I thank the Senator from Ohio for his words and also join with him and with our wonderful colleague from North Dakota who has been such a champion on issues of fair trade.

First, I will start by reinforcing what has been happening to manufacturing in the last 6½ years. In this country, we have lost over 3 million manufacturing jobs. Why should we care about 3 million jobs that people raised their kids on, sent them to college—middle-